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II. 46, note; Vogl, page 221, lines 17–25, with Bridges, II. 67, marginal topic, and II. 68, note 1.

I cannot accept the main theses of two essays, namely, Professor Duhem's "Roger Bacon et l'Horreur du Vide", and Colonel Hime's "Roger Bacon and Gunpowder". The physical theory which Duhem credits Bacon with inventing is set forth in chapter LVIII. of the *Quaestiones Naturales* of Adelard of Bath, written over a hundred years before Bacon's treatises. Colonel Hime tries to prove Roger Bacon the inventor of gunpowder by the method which has been employed to prove Francis Bacon the author of Shakespeare's plays—a cipher; but other considerations than the cipher itself invalidate his conclusions. I hope to deal with these two methods elsewhere more fully than present space permits.

A few errors of detail should be noted. In note 1 on page 71 the reference should be to *Moyen Âge*, November, 1894, instead of 1891. One finds the spelling "Pecham" on pages 24, 28, and 235; "Peckham" on 152 and 159. I cannot find the phrase "*homo sapientissimus*" in the passage cited by Hirsch (p. 139); and Hirsch's logic in the two following pages would excite the derision of Bacon's "scholastic contemporaries". Smith (p. 157) incorrectly dates Adelard of Bath about 1180—perhaps a slip for 1130. At pages 262 and 263 we find described two different "troisième expériences"; one of them should be changed to "second" or "fourth". Breaks in quotations are not always indicated by dots (*e. g.*, page 165, line 3, after "attained"); and one is never sure whether the passages set up in close type are true quotations or not. Vogl seems the chief offender in this respect. He runs together passages from 40 to 400 pages apart in Bridges's text and indiscriminately juxtaposes exact translation and loose paraphrase and condensation of Bacon's wording. Moreover, the passage on pages 225–226 for which the foot-note cites Bridges, II. 78, 92, is mainly from Bridges, II. 52–53. Dr. Withington's digression into the history of astrology (pp. 343–345) contains two or three misleading statements.

LYNN THORNDIKE.

The Place of the Reign of Edward II. in English History. Based upon the Ford Lectures delivered in the University of Oxford in 1913, by T. F. Tout, M.A., F.B.A., Bishop Fraser Professor of Medieval and Ecclesiastical History. [Publications of the University of Manchester, Historical Series, no. XXI.] (Manchester: The University Press. 1914. Pp. xvi, 421.)

ONE of the greatest needs in English history is a careful study of the administrative system in the later Middle Ages. Anyone who has investigated this period, though never so slightly, is aware of the many unsolved problems which now stand in the way of a thorough understanding of the constitutional development. There is no field in which

more important work waits to be done. Fortunately the publication in recent years of the various calendars of official documents has cleared a part of the way at last for the supplying of this want, and the appearance of such books as Professor Baldwin's *King's Council* and this volume of Professor Tout's are an earnest of what we may expect in future.

Probably the most significant contribution of Professor Tout's book is his study of the organization and functions particularly of the Chamber and the Wardrobe as offices of administration in the reign of Edward II., a period which the author truly says must be considered a turning point in English administrative history. For the twenty years of this reign, more, possibly, than any other period of equal length, mark the advance away from the old system of undifferentiated administration under which the great officials performed all sorts of functions in turn, toward a division of labor and the growth of separate bureaus of administration, each with its staff of trained administrators.

The administrative history of the reign is largely a record of the routine work of a considerable number of minor officials; and the value of this investigation lies in the fact that this routine work is here studied from the unprinted Wardrobe Accounts, and in the further fact that at the outset of the reign the Wardrobe was as much a department of the national administration as the Exchequer and the Chancery themselves. It is in this period that we may perceive the beginnings, in the field of the royal revenue, of the later fundamental distinction between the king and the crown.

The author, however, does not restrict himself to the Wardrobe and the Chamber, but has added valuable chapters on the Exchequer and the Chancery, which are less important only because they are briefer and because they deal with subjects better known. His account of the great constitutional struggle between the Ordainers and the King's Favorites which produced the famous ordinances of 1311, while naturally not bringing out many new facts, is full of original suggestions and new points of view which cannot lightly be rejected. This is particularly true of his estimate of the constructive work of the Despencers in administration and of the financial difficulties inherited by Edward II. from his father.

While the main theme of the book is the history of administration and of the constitutional struggle, the author has added a few sections on the history of the Staple, the art of war, the relations of Church and State, and the foreign and imperial policy of the reign. These sections, he explains, are to be regarded merely as "supplementary to the story of political and administrative reform already told", inserted "rather to indicate new points of view than to emphasize once more a well recognized standpoint".

Not the least valuable feature of the volume is the careful list of administrative officers of the reign given in appendix II. For judicial officers we have the old lists given by Dugdale in the *Chronica* series ap-

pendent to his *Origines Juridiciales*, and the later work of Foss in his *Tabulae Curiales*. But these were in great need of revision and they include only the greater judicial officers, while Professor Tout has added also many other officers of administration. Appendix I. consists of the important Household Ordinance of 1318.

Space will not permit a detailed examination of the many interesting suggestions of the book. It is a valuable one; and the author's promised volume on the history of the Wardrobe, the Chamber, and the Small Seals, will be awaited with interest by all students of English constitutional history.

C. H. McILWAIN.

The Reformation in Germany. By HENRY C. VEDDER, Professor of Church History, Crozer Theological Seminary. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1914. Pp. xlix, 466.)

"THIS is the first attempt, in the English language, at least, to interpret the religious struggle of the sixteenth century in terms of economics." It is the publisher's wrapper that thus challenges our interest. In his Foreword the author himself states that he has spent many years of study on the enormous mass of material now accessible, and that "he has neglected nothing in the more recent literature that promised the least assistance toward a better understanding of the facts or their more accurate determination"; therefore he feels "reasonably confident that he has missed little of substantial value". Important points he buttresses with citations of the contemporary sources, now and then giving extracts in foot-notes. In the appendixes he presents fifty-one pages of documents in translation, thus republishing material previously issued separately under the title of *Historical Leaflets*, including Tetzels Theses, the Edict of Worms, the Protest at Speyer, the Religious Peace of Augsburg, and "Against the Murdering and Robbing Bands of the Peasants". To guide the reader through the labyrinth of facts he offers a logical clue; and endeavors to create "a readable narrative, worth while for its own sake".

Readable the book undeniably is, in spite of the large page dancing with small type. But for occasional reproductions of tedious theological debates, such as the fifteen pages on the Leipzig Disputation of 1519, and the disquisition on the development of indulgences, the style is fairly vigorous, as might be expected from one who in earlier years was a journalist. He does not drag in the dramatic; he merely glows with a social gospel. Feeling occasionally flashes up into generalization; light is sometimes accompanied by heat. Emphasizing the economic interpretation of history, he dares not focus his enthusiasm on any personality; Luther, who "bestrode Europe like a colossus, dwarfing all men of his time, because of what he was", was "in reality but a chip upon the current of events" (p. 367). Dr. Vedder's real heroes scarcely cross the